



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY CONVICTS KC MAN OF POSSESSION, INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE CRACK COCAINE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was found guilty by a federal jury today for possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

Deron D. Gipson, 23, of Kansas City, was found guilty by a federal trial jury of possessing with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

Following the presentation of evidence in **Gipson's** trial, Graves said, the jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated approximately eight hours before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon, ending a trial that began on Feb. 14, 2005.

The federal jury found **Gipson** guilty of possessing with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on Aug. 11, 2003.

Gipson was initially arrested after law enforcement officers executed a search warrant on Aug. 11, 2003, at a residence located on 29th Street in Kansas City. The warrant was executed after the officers observed a crack cocaine transaction being made at the residence on Aug. 5, 2003. At the time of the warrant, the officers observed **Gipson** throw crack cocaine through a window of the residence. At the time the cocaine was recovered, the cocaine was wet and still hot, as if it had just been cooked, and weighed 238.75 grams, Graves said.

On Aug. 20, 2003, law enforcement officers also observed a cocaine transaction take place through a window of the same residence in which 59 individually wrapped bags containing a total of 9.21 grams of crack cocaine were distributed.

Following the transaction that took place on Aug. 20, 2003, law enforcement officers

executed another search warrant at the Kansas City residence where **Gipson** was present. During execution of the search warrant, law enforcement officers recovered 10.4 grams of crack cocaine packaged for sale, razor blades and plastic bags.

As a result of today's conviction, **Gipson** is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$8 million. His sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

A second co-defendant also pleaded guilty in this case.

On July 7, 2004, **Wesley A. Box**, 23, also of Kansas City, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of crack cocaine. By pleading guilty, **Box** admitted that he possessed with intent to distribute crack cocaine on Aug. 20, 2003.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Box** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million. **Box's** sentencing hearing is scheduled to take place on March 31, 2005.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kathleen D. Mahoney and W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow